

ADDITIONAL Testimony of Liz Dupont-Diehl

Associate Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

February 21, 2023 HB 991 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS - IN SUPPORT WITH ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Good afternoon Senator Lesser, Representative Gilcrest, and other members of the Committee, my name is Liz Dupont-Diehl and I am the Associate Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG).

I had already submitted a statement in support of **HB 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers**.

However, in response to Commissioner -designate Baron-Reeves' testimony, we submit the following additional comments:

The bill as drafted, requiring a Medicaid state plan amendment to pay for CHW services directly, is correct and should not be altered. Any authorization in the bill for OHS or DSS to put financial risk on providers through "alternative payment models" where the provider group then pays for these services out of their own pocket or is otherwise at financial risk for this, such as through capitated payments to primary care providers, could do more harm than good.

Commissioner-designate Reeve's endorsement of a "more focused integration of CHWs into Medicaid, **primarily through the utilization of value-based models that are presently undergoing evaluation by the Department,**" could put Medicaid enrollees, and particularly Medicaid enrollees with complex medical conditions, at risk of restricted access to care from providers with a financial incentive to withhold care, as that is what is incentivized under "value-based payment" and "alternative payment models" as envisioned by OHS.

The bill as drafted is fine and should not include any authorization for these troubling alternative ways of paying for CHWs. Hopefully, a clean bill will arise from the committee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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